

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants	Jean Charles Le Huec, <i>et al.</i>
Serial No. – Pending	Filing Date: February 5, 2002
Title of Application	Medical Instrument And Method For Creating A Cavity For Endoscopic Intervention
Group Art Unit	Examiner

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Preliminary Amendment

Dear Sir:

Please enter this preliminary amendment before examination of this case.

Version with Markings to Show Changes Made to the Claims and Abstract

In the claims:

1. (Amended) Medical instrument for creating a cavity for an endoscopic intervention in a human or animal body, comprised of a hollow cylindrical encasing trocar tube [(1)] which can be inserted into an artificial body opening and an expander [(2)] which can be extracted from and retracted into said trocar tube [(1)], characterized in that the expander [(2)] comprised of a retaining element [(6)] arranged outside the trocar tube [(1)] in addition to at least two spring blades [(7)] which are made of a flexible material and form an arc in the respective middle sections, whereby the two ends thereof are fixed to the retaining element [(6)], extending through the tube [(1)] of the trocar and that the trocar tube [(1)] consists of two coaxial sleeves [(3, 4)] arranged at a distance to one another, where the spring blades [(7)] fixed in said retaining element [(6)] extend through the gap [(5)] formed between said coaxial sleeves [(3, 4)].

2. (Amended) Medical instrument in accordance with Claim 1, characterized in that at least two spring blades [(7)] are shifted toward one another on the retaining